Fact Sheet

UNODA Publications

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) currently produces six publication series, an electronic newsletter and several ad hoc publications as part of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme mandated by the General Assembly. The Programme aims to inform, educate and promote public understanding of the importance of multilateral action in the field of arms control and disarmament. The publications are designed to be user-friendly reference tools for diplomats, researchers, students and the general public.

Online access. As access to the Internet and electronic media increases across the globe, UNODA is making all of its publications available at no cost from www.un.org/disarmament/publications. This webpage is the one-stop-shop for UNODA publications and documents.

E-books. Several publications are also available as e-books, most of which can be downloaded for free from the UNODA website for installation to an e-reader portable device. They can also be accessed using an e-book online viewer, which is an e-reader within the user’s Internet browser. The following are available as e-books: Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament, United Nations Disarmament Yearbook (from vol. 40: 2015 onwards), Disarmament: A Basic Guide (4th edition), Action for Disarmament: 10 Things You Can Do! and Disarmament and Related Treaties.

Print versions can be ordered from https://shop.un.org/. A limited quantity is available for free upon request by emailing unoda-web@un.org.

Translations. Aside from English, the latest editions of the United Nations Disarmament Yearbook (Part II) and Disarmament: A Basic Guide will also be available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish, to be posted as soon as available. Earlier editions have been updated with the language versions available. The Yearbook volumes from 1976 to 2002 are only in English.

The Publications

Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament—The Secretary-General announced on 24 May 2018 his Agenda for Disarmament, which outlines a set of practical measures across the entire range of disarmament issues, including weapons of mass destruction, conventional arms and future weapon technologies. It seeks to generate fresh perspectives and to explore areas where serious dialogue is required to bring disarmament back to the heart of our common efforts for peace and security. (Available in English and French and in e-book format)

The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook is the flagship publication of UNODA, published annually since 1976. Part I contains the annual compilation of the text and statistics of disarmament-related resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly. Part II is divided among the main multilateral issues that were under consideration throughout the year.

The UNODA Update is an e-publication of articles that highlight recent UNODA events and activities and other disarmament forums.
Hypersonic Weapons: A Challenge and Opportunity for Strategic Arms Control—This study prepared on the recommendation of the Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters aims to raise awareness of the implications of long-range strike options and to consider possible ways to address them in a multilateral context. It includes overviews of the current state of technology, possible implications for international peace and security and for arms control and disarmament efforts, and different approaches to address these challenges.

Aide-Memoire: Options for Reflecting Weapons and Ammunition Management in Decisions of the Security Council—This publication conveniently clusters past Security Council action regarding weapons and ammunition management and suggests further options. It seeks to assist Member States serving on the Council in reflecting state-of-the-art practices into relevant drafts of the Council’s decisions. It supports the Secretary-General’s recommendation to the Council that the arms situation be consistently considered when addressing geographic and thematic issues on its agenda.

Disarmament: A Basic Guide, now on its fourth edition, presents disarmament topics and information in layman’s terms (available in all official languages of the United Nations).

The Occasional Papers series, issued biannually, features independently commissioned papers and edited presentations made at international meetings, symposiums, seminars and workshops in the area of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The latest titles are The Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons on the Dark Web: A Study (No. 32) and Celebrating 15 Years of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education (No. 31).

The Disarmament Study Series contains studies, including related documents, of various groups of governmental experts or expert panels. The latest, No. 36, is entitled The Global Reported Arms Trade—Transparency in Armaments through the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: A Guide to Assist National Points of Contact in Submitting Their National Reports.

The Civil Society and Disarmament series, published annually, provides a forum primarily for the views of civil society in order to further an informed debate on topical issues of arms limitation, disarmament and security. The 2018 edition is entitled Advocacy by Non-governmental Organizations to Strengthen the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Programmes Financed from Voluntary Contributions is a report illustrating how UNODA has achieved concrete results though partnerships with its donors, and how essential such support is in attaining important disarmament goals. The 2017-2018 edition was released in October 2018.

The UNODA Fact Sheets are two-page documents that emphasize key points of disarmament issues in a simple and concise format. They provide overviews of UNODA’s work, including the activities of its office in Vienna and its Regional Centres in Lomé, Lima and Kathmandu.